



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 3 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
3 OCTOBER 1968

LATE ITEMS

Soviet Union -  
Czechoslovakia

A Czechoslovak delegation left for Moscow this morning, according to Radio Prague. Dubcek, Premier Cernik, and Slovak leader Husak are on the delegation, but Svoboda and National Assembly leader Smrkovsky stayed in Prague.

Peru

The army began moving into strategic points in Lima early this morning. Our embassy reports a power play is obviously in progress, but it has no details yet.

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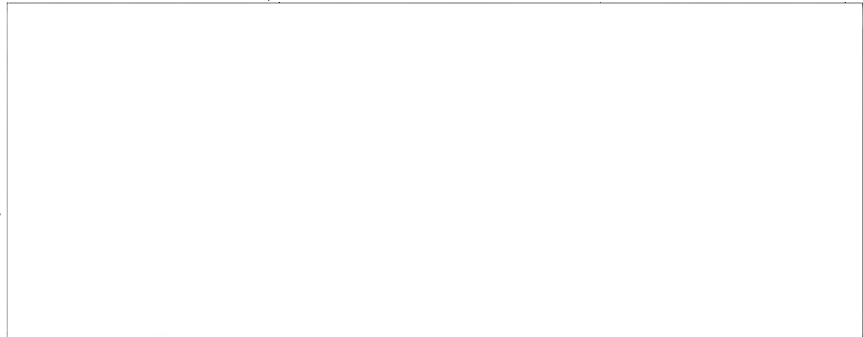
1. Mexico

Last night's battle was the worst yet in Mexico City's current crisis. There apparently was firing on both sides as the army tried to break up a student demonstration. An undetermined number of people were killed or wounded in the shooting and the mass panic which followed.

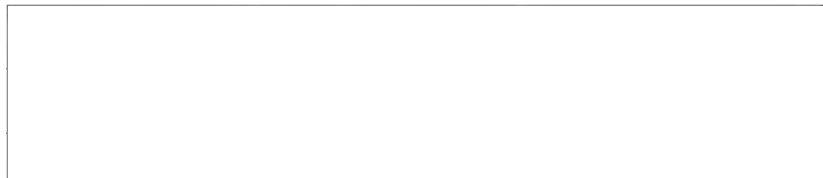
The students now have a new batch of martyrs and will probably try to press their campaign. With the Olympics scheduled to start a week from Saturday, the government is likely to grow even more sensitive to threats of disorders and more inclined toward Draconian measures.

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2. Soviet Union



3. Australia



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4. Nigeria



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the Biafrans are beginning to counterattack strongly. Casualties apparently are heavy on both sides. Ojukwu's forces may be able to keep their opponents at bay for a while, but we still believe the federals will eventually be able to occupy Biafra.

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## 5. Jordan-Egypt

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## 6. Albania-Yugoslavia

The Albanians, jolted by recent events in Eastern Europe and uncertain how far they can rely on Communist China in a pinch, have made an unprecedented effort to improve relations with the Yugoslavs. Details of Tirana's approach are unavailable, but some sort of marriage of convenience seems in the making.

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## 7. Soviet Union - Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovak leaders apparently still expect to go to Moscow soon to discuss implementation of the Moscow agreement, and possibly also to head off a purge. Soviet officials are still saying privately that Dubcek and some other leaders will have to go, and a group of ousted pro-Moscow conservatives seems to be trying to sell itself to the Soviets as the nucleus of a new regime.

There is still no evidence, however, that Moscow plans to push for Dubcek's removal in the near future. Nor have the Soviets been able to make a dent in the unity of the present Czechoslovak leadership.

A Czechoslovak official has told the National Assembly that illness, first Dubcek's and then Brezhnev's, is the reason the Moscow talks have been delayed. Brezhnev is alleged to have had the flu.

More than one source has reported that the forces occupying Czechoslovakia will be reduced soon, but that nine Soviet divisions are to remain as a garrison.

## 8. Greece-Cyprus

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## 9. Nationalist China

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S  
Political Attitudes

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

3 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Free World Shipping: Free World shipping to North Vietnam, which dropped steadily from early 1965 until the end of 1967, has increased significantly during 1968. During the first eight months of 1968, an average of twelve Free World ships a month called at North Vietnamese ports, compared with six a month during 1967. Since the cessation of US air strikes north of the 20th Parallel, Free World arrivals have averaged 14 a month and have accounted for 31 percent of total arrivals.

During the first eight months of 1968, the volume of cargoes carried by Free World ships to North Vietnam was more than twice that carried in the comparable period of 1967. From January to August 1968 these ships have carried 32 percent of North Vietnam's total seaborne imports. They carried about 23 percent of seaborne imports during all of 1967.

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Reaction to New Jersey: The initial reaction of the North Vietnamese Government to shore bombardments by the New Jersey was routine and brief. In a four-paragraph statement broadcast by Radio Hanoi yesterday, the Foreign Ministry termed the bombardment an escalation of the war, sabotage of the 1954 Geneva accords and a "gross encroachment" on North Vietnam's sovereignty.

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Demonstrations Planned: Various sources indicate the World Council of Peace is busily organizing anti-war activities in several countries for the week of 15-21 October ("Vietnam Solidarity Week").

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The peace organization's secretariat has asked the "South Vietnam Peace Committee" in Hanoi to furnish delegations for activities in Finland, Italy, and other unspecified countries.

[redacted] various national committees are being requested to plan demonstrations, meetings, and news conferences. These committees are also being asked to send delegations to Paris to protest to the US mission at the Paris talks. The council has suggested letters and cables be sent to the US presidential candidates.

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## II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on Reaction to Vice President: North Vietnamese spokesmen in Paris disparaged Vice President Humphrey's speech on Vietnam as adding nothing new to the US position on a bombing halt. As noted yesterday, Le Duc Tho called it "the same demand for reciprocity" which has been continually rejected by Hanoi. In the official Wednesday meeting, Xuan Thuy charged the Vice President had been forced to speak out on the bombing issue because of the "pressure of public opinion." Xuan Thuy implied the Vice President's position on the bombing was even harder than President Johnson's because he had threatened to resume the bombing if Hanoi did not respect the Demilitarized Zone.

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